

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Albania  
 SUBJECT Resistance to the Communist Regime

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 10 January 1955

NO. OF PAGES 3

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED  
 Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. During 1949, there were a series of incidents against officials of the Communist regime in northern Albania. A Communist deputy from the Mirdite District was murdered. In reprisal, the Sigurimi (Albanian I.S.) executed 15 villagers in the district and 150 people were arrested in Shkoder. The families of those arrested were all interned in concentration camps. The Sigurimi officers were given a carte blanche by Mehmet Shehu to do what they wished in finding the murderers of the Communist deputy. Arrests were also made in the areas of Lesh and Kruje. In Kruje, the chief of the Sigurimi, Captain Nuri Luci was murdered.
2. An unidentified anti-regime organization which had spread throughout the districts of Vlone, Mallakaster and Himar with centers in Dukat and Dhermi, was uncovered by government officials during 1949. This organization's secretary was Piro Xhezo. Before arrests were made among the members of this organization, a group of some 10 men including the father of Lt. Col. Hamlin Xhelo escaped from Albania by sea.
3. In 1950, mass arrests were made in Korce
4. In 1950-51, the following incidents occurred in Tirana which gives evidence of discontent among the people in Albania:
  - a. Students in the gymnasium resisted Soviet methods and distributed leaflets criticizing the government.
  - b. A women's tailoring cooperative was burnt on Barricades Street.
  - c. A three story cooperative building was burnt on the Durres Road.

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- d. A bomb was thrown into the courtyard of the Soviet Embassy on the Durres Road. One wall of the embassy building was destroyed and windows were shattered. There was no loss of life. More than 150 people were arrested and at least 15 were executed in connection with this incident. Those responsible for the bombing were never discovered.

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6. There is also resistance to the Communist regime within the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party. In 1949, after the execution of Koci Xoxe, and the break with Tito, Pandi Kristo, Vasko Koleci and Vango Mitrogjorgji were arrested and accused of collaborating with Xoxe. Ramadan Citaku, Colonel Pullumb Dishnica, Lt. Col. Mysafir Spah and Colonel Nesti Kerenxhi were removed from the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party Central Committee for their associations with Xoxe. In 1950, Beqir Ndou was removed from the Party's Central Committee and Colonel Sali Ormeni, Commandant of the Tirana Police was executed after being accused of conspiring against the government.
7. An anti-Party group, led by Abedin Shehu, Minister of Education and a member of the Central Committee was discovered. Shehu was removed from his position. Others in this group were Shyqri Kellezi; Colonel Hamit Keci, Director of Military Intelligence at Army Headquarters, and his brother Colonel Jusuf Keci, member of the Politburo for Tirana. Hamit Keci had quarrelled with General Balluku over military matters, but this was only a pretext for arresting him. The real reason was his association with the anti-Party group.
8. Early in 1951, Colonel Nexhip Vinqani was removed from the Central Committee and from his post as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Albanian Army because he, together with General Gjin Marku, had disagreed with General Balluku on some policies concerning the Army.
9. In mid-1951, measures were taken against Tuk Jakova.<sup>1</sup> Manol Konomi and Theodor Heba were removed from the Central Committee and from their government positions. Spiro Pano, who was secretary and member of the Central Committee and vice-president of the Republic was removed for "chauvinism and anti-Party activity".

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Comment:

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1. Tuk Jakova, former Minister of Finance was elevated to the position of deputy prime minister in July 1954. [redacted] arrest of Jakova in March 1951. According to the report, his arrest might have been connected with the bombing of the Soviet Embassy in Tirana or the result of a disagreement with Enver Hoxha.

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